



SIDNEY L. STRICKLAND, JR.
Associate General Counsel

The Burlington Northern and
Santa Fe Railway Company
700 13th Street NW, Suite 220
Washington, DC 20005-5915
(202) 347-8667 - Telephone
(202) 347-8675 - Fax
Sidney.Strickland@BNSF.com

E1-878
CD
JUN 14 2004
RECEIVED

VIA UPS OVERNIGHT MAIL

June 9, 2004

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Chief, SEA
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 416X); The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company ("BNSF") Abandonment from Souris to Westhope, North Dakota

Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 418X); The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company ("BNSF") Abandonment from Hannah Junction to McCanna, North Dakota

Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 419X); The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company ("BNSF") Abandonment from Walum to Dazey, North Dakota

Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 420X); The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company ("BNSF") Abandonment from Antelope Valley to Zap, North Dakota

Dear Ms. Rutson:

The above referenced abandonments have been processed for review by the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA). Environmental Assessments have been or will be served soon on these lines. A Section 106 condition has been or may be recommended by SEA on all of these lines based on responses received by the ND SHPO as of the dates of submission of the Environmental Reports in the referenced dockets. Since submission of those reports, however, BNSF has further consulted with the ND SHPO.

Enclosed for your review is a copy of a letter dated May 12, 2004, from the State Historical Society of North Dakota making a recommendation of "No Historic Properties Affected" for these lines.

Accordingly, BNSF suggests that the Section 106 condition of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f, need not be imposed on all of the above referenced abandonments based on the latest correspondence from the ND SHPO.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 347-8667 or Sidney.Strickland@BNSF.com.

Sincerely,

Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.
Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.
by BRR

Enclosure

cc: Rini Ghosh, STB SCA
James H. Gallegos
Richard Batie
Peter Luedtke
Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr. (ND SHPO)



**STATE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**
OF NORTH DAKOTA

JUN 14 2004
RECEIVED

John Hoeven
Governor of North Dakota

May 12, 2004

North Dakota
State Historical Board

Diane K. Larson
Bismarck - President

Marvin L. Kaiser
Williston - Vice President

Albert I. Berger
Grand Forks - Secretary

Chester E. Nelson, Jr.
Bismarck

Gereld Gerntholz
Valley City

A. Ruric Todd III
Jamestown

Sara Otte Coleman
Director
Tourism Division

Kathi Gilmore
State Treasurer

Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State

Douglass Prchal
Director
Parks and Recreation
Department

David A. Sprynczynatyk
Director
Department of Transportation

John E. Von Rueden
Bismarck

Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.
Director

Accredited by the
American Association
of Museums

Betty L. Reinert
Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Co.
Law Department
P.O. Box 961039
Fort Worth, TX 76161

ND SHPO REF.: 04-0221C, -0222C, -0287C, and -0288C, Report Review,
Four Proposed BN&SF Railway Co. Abandonments in Grand Forks, Barnes,
Griggs, Bottineau, and Mercer Counties, ND.

Dear Ms. Reinert:

We have reviewed: *Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company Abandonment at Four Locations in North Dakota, Class I and Class II Cultural Resources Inventories* (review draft version) by Cynthia Kordecki, UND, Department of Anthropology, Anthropology Research, April 2004, and have no comments on this report.

The ND SHPO seldom concurs with, or makes recommendations for, a determination prior to receiving all (if any) cultural resource forms and a final report. However, the draft version of this document is well written and contains enough information for us to make a recommend to the Surface Transportation Board. Provided that the projects are of the nature specified and take place in the legal descriptions outlined in the report and correspondence, we would concur with a "No Historic Properties Affected" determination for these four proposed abandonments. We look forward to receiving the site forms for the three bridges and historical site, and the final report for this undertaking.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. Please include the ND SHPO Reference number listed above in any further correspondence for this specific project. If you have any questions please contact Duane Klinner at (701) 328-3576.

Sincerely,

Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.
State Historic Preservation Officer
(North Dakota)